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JOURNAL
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New York Entomological Society.

EDITED BY HARRISON G. DYAR.

Publishes articles relating to any class of the subkingdom Arthropoda, subject to the acceptance of the Publication Committee. Original communications in this field are solicited.

EDITORIAL.

The April issue of our interesting contemporary, *Entomological News*, contains much matter devoted to our criticism of the work of its editor. We feel a sense of amusement at the editor's efforts to "save his face." We would repeat that until Dr. Skinner produces a better classification of the Hesperiidæ, he must accept the one advanced by us, or abandon all generic names and simply list the species of Skippers in any order that pleases him. The generic names he uses cannot be defended. We notice he has not attempted it. Dr. Skinner persists in crediting the new classification to us. It is original with Scudder and Watson. It was Mabille's imperfect presentation of it, as applied to the American forms, that induced us to attempt the subject. Dr. Skinner makes certain criticisms of the characters used, with which, in part, we agree. It is probable that we are aware of more imperfections in the system than Dr. Skinner is, owing to his lack of critical study of genera. His dogmatic utterances that this species is more nearly related to that, etc., although placed by us in different genera, are not due to actual knowledge. Dr. Skinner knows nothing of the early stages and belittles structure; his assertions are founded solely on his ideas of superficial resemblance. His criticism of the use of secondary sexual characters in generic definition is, perhaps, well made; but everybody uses these convenient characters, except Sir George F. Hampson, and even he uses them for subgenera.

Their use in this case is perfectly sanctioned by custom and the authority of many of the best systematists. It is true that exactly what characters shall be used in generic definition can never be arbitrarily asserted nor established by rule; that will depend upon individual ability and tact. If Dr. Skinner does not like the Scudderian system, let him produce another for comparison with it. No positive advance can be made through wholesale criticism without constructive work.

BOOK NOTICES.

Les Moustiques, Histoire Naturelle et Médicale, Par RAPHAËL BLANCHARD, Professeur à la Faculté de Médecine de Paris, Membre de l'Académie de Médecine. Paris: F. R. de Rudeval, 1905.

The book contains 673 pages in seven chapters and an appendix, including introductory definitions, systematic account of the species, their pathological properties, prophylaxis, methods of collecting and breeding and a list of recently described species (appendix). The general account refers at some length to allied forms, *Simulium*, *Tipula*, *Dixa*, *Chironomus*, etc., with text figures. The Corethridæ are not included as mosquitoes. Theobald's classification is adopted, based as it is largely on unimportant scale characters, although somewhat modified by the introduction in the text of the subfamilies Sabethinæ and Joblotinæ to replace Theobald's nameless sections B and C. This is really a distinct improvement and approximates the classification to that of Lutz, epitomized on page 619. Figures of adults and larvæ are copied from various authors and inserted as text figures. This has resulted in some errors. On page 297 a figure of a larva is given as *confinis* Arrib.; it should be transferred to *jamaicensis* Theob., page 279. Page 403, *Aedes smithii* should be transferred to *Wyeomyia* in the Sabethinæ. Errors of this nature are liable to occur in a compilation, such as Professor Blanchard's work essentially is, and are due to incomplete following up of the subsequent literature. Professor Blanchard is an enthusiastic follower of Theobald, and he has taken advantage of that author's remarkable ability in the creation of homonyms to propose a number of new and beautifully formed generic terms. He has also changed Theobald's badly made names into the proper grammatical forms, which we think he has no right to do. These names will have to stand as first proposed, bad as they are. Fortunately most of them will fall into the synonymy when the scale